

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 074362
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 HA-05 VO-05 CA-01 EB-08
NEA-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02
H-01 STR-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SY-05 CPR-01
USSS-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /099 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:I M SILINS
APPROVED BY C:M NIMETZ
EUR/EE:N G ANDREWS
-----094411 230056Z /15
P 222236Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CVIS, SHUM, ETRD, EFIN, OVIP (CEAUSESCU,

SUBJECT: NIMETZ-GLIGA MEETING, MARCH 17

1. SUMMARY. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION PROPOSED BY THE ROMANIANS; U.S.-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS; EMIGRATION AND MARRIAGE CASES, INCLUDING EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL; AND A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY QUESTION. ROMANIAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED AMBASSADOR NICOLAE AND COUNSELORS IONITA AND RACEANU; U.S.: VEST, ANDREWS, AND SILINS (EUR) AND MARK SCHNEIDER (HA).

2. NIMETZ SAID WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO GIVE OUR FORMAL COMMENTS ON THE ROMANIAN DRAFT DECLARATION AT THIS STAGE. WE CONSIDER IT A VERY USEFUL CONTRIBUTION, BUT WE HAVE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH SOME PARTS AND WILL NEED TO DISCUSS IT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND WITH OTHER AGENCIES. SIGNATURE OF THE DOCUMENT BY THE TWO PRESIDENTS ALSO RAISES A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 074362

LEGAL QUESTION (WOULD CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BE REQUIRED) AS WELL AS A QUESTION OF PRACTICE (THE CARTER-TITO STATEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS UNSIGNED). WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THESE QUESTIONS NEXT WEEK. GLIGA STRESSED CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN A SIGNED DOCUMENT, NOTING THAT THE 1973 JOINT STATEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED AND IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHY THIS ONE WAS NOT. GLIGA MADE

CLEAR THAT THE GOR WOULD ATTRIBUTE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE U.S. DECISION ON THIS POINT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE FIRST STEPS IN ARRIVING AT A JOINT TEXT WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY CABLE BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS. ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE CEAUSESCU'S ARRIVAL, THE GOR WILL SEND A NEGOTIATING TEAM, POSSIBLY HEADED BY DOBROIU. ON THE U.S. SIDE, LUERS, ANDREWS AND SILINS WILL BE CHARGED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ASKED FOR HIS VIEW OF U.S.-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, GLIGA RESPONDED THAT ROMANIAN GOALS ARE TO A LARGE EXTENT REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT DECLARATION. CEAUSESCU WILL STRESS ECONOMIC ISSUES DURING HIS VISIT. GLIGA REFERRED TO THE GOAL OF \$1 BILLION IN TRADE BY 1980, A MORE STABLE BASIS FOR MFN, AND DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. GLIGA ALSO REMINDED NIMETZ OF PUNGAN'S EARLIER MENTION OF THE NEED FOR CERTAIN "FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS" TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

4. NIMETZ SAID THAT THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND CONGRESS ARE PLEASED WITH THE GROWTH OF TRADE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TO SOME EXTENT THIS GROWTH DEPENDS ON U.S. LAWS. IN THE FUTURE, THESE LAWS MIGHT BE CHANGED, BUT NOT THIS YEAR. THEREFORE, THE QUESTION OF EMIGRATION ARISES WHENEVER TRADE AGREEMENTS OF THE TYPE WE HAVE WITH ROMANIA

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 074362

ARE DISCUSSED. NIMETZ MENTIONED THAT SUCH A TRADE AGREEMENT WAS TO BE SIGNED MARCH 17 WITH HUNGARY. VEST CREDITED ROMANIA WITH HAVING PLAYED THE ROLE OF ICE-BREAKER IN MAKING SUCH A STEP POSSIBLE.

5. NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT THE DECLINE IN ROMANIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL WOULD ARISE AT THE MFN HEARINGS. WE APPRECIATE THAT THE JEWISH POPULATION OF ROMANIA IS NOW SMALL, AND PERHAPS THE MAJORITY ARE HAPPY IN ROMANIA. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THOSE WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE CAN DO SO. MANY PEOPLE IN THE U.S. BELIEVE EMIGRATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT AS GOOD AS THEY COULD BE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE 1950S AND 1960S ROMANIA HELPED FACILITATE THE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF ITS OWN POPULATION WHO WISHED TO EMIGRATE. WE DO NOT WISH TO BE UNSYMPATHETIC, BUT WE LOOK FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION.

6. WITH REGARD TO EMIGRATION IN GENERAL, NIMETZ SAID ROMANIAN PROCEDURES AND DELAYS RAISED QUESTIONS HERE, ESPECIALLY FOR SENATOR RIBICOFF. THE VIEW HERE IS THAT PROCEDURES COULD BE SIMPLIFIED. HE ASKED THAT THE GOR, IN

THE SPIRIT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, MAKE PROGRESS IN THIS FIELD. WE HAVE TALKED OF

ELIMINATING ANNUAL REVIEW; PERHAPS THIS COULD BE DONE IF PROGRESS WERE MADE. ONE POSSIBILITY, WHICH WE COULD NOT YET PROPOSE OFFICIALLY, WOULD BE FOR THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN TO DECLARE HEARINGS UNNECESSARY IF THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH EMIGRATION TRENDS.

7. NICOLAE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER NIMETZ BELIEVED THAT ROMANIAN EXIT PROCEDURES ARE MORE CUMBERSOME THAN U.S. ENTRY PROCEDURES. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT ON BOTH SIDES. WHAT WE HOPE FOR IS A SYMPATHETIC ROMANIAN APPROACH TO HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 074362

8. GLIGA SAID THE GOR IS ACTING PROMPTLY ON REQUESTS FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 126 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN APPROVED THIS YEAR. IN 1977, 1540 APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED AND 1405 PERSONS DEPARTED. THE QUESTION WAS, SHOULD THE ENTIRE ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY DEPART? THE MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS, GLIGA SAID, DO NOT WISH TO DO SO, AND THE GOR HAS NO DESIRE TO COERCE THEM. CONGRESS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE REGARDED IN THE SAME WAY NOW THAT THERE ARE ONLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN ROMANIA AS WHEN THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS.

9. APPROVALS FOR BINATIONAL MARRIAGES, GLIGA SAID, ARE A DIFFERENT MATTER. THE GOR BELIEVES THE PRESENT PROCEDURE, WHICH REQUIRES PARENTAL CONSENT AND THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. EVEN HERE, HE MAINTAINED, THE GOR DOES ITS BEST TO APPROVE APPLICATIONS. ANDREWS INFORMED GLIGA OF THE LIST OF 21 MARRIAGE CASES HE HAD BROUGHT TO PATAN'S ATTENTION ON FEBRUARY 23, AND GLIGA SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THEM.

10. GLIGA SAID HE WAS TAKING NOTE OF THE COUNSELOR'S STATEMENT THAT A CHANGE IN THE ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR MFN IS NOT POSSIBLE THIS YEAR BUT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE.

11. NIMETZ REMINDED GLIGA THAT AMB. NICOLAE HAD RAISED THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY ISSUE ON MARCH 16, AND HE WISHED TO CLARIFY SOME POINTS. FOR THE U.S. IT IS NOT A TERRITORIAL QUESTION. WE VIEW IT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR GLOBAL CONCERN FOR MINORITY RIGHTS. THE U.S. HAS MINORITY PROBLEMS, NOT FULLY RESOLVED, AND THERE ARE MINORITY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE. WE DO NOT THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES PUBLICLY, BUT GROUPS IN THE U.S. RAISE THE QUESTION, AND IT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 074362

CAME UP IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS LAST YEAR. NIMETZ IN FACT HAD MENTIONED AT THOSE HEARINGS THE GENERALLY POSITIVE APPROACH OF THE GOR TO THE MINORITY QUESTION. SINCE PRESS ARTICLES ON THE SITUATION OF HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA ARE NOW

IN THE PUBLIC EYE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HEAR ROMANIAN VIEWS ON THIS GENERAL QUESTION.

12. GLIGA SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO HEAR THE OFFICIAL U.S. POSITION. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, SOME U.S.-HUNGARIAN GROUPS WERE INCREASINGLY RAISING THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON HOW THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY LIVES IN ROMANIA, BUT THE GOR CANNOT IGNORE THE IRREDENT-IST ASPECT OF RECENT ACTIVITIES. IT IS UP TO US WHETHER THE U.S. TAKES A PUBLIC POSITION, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO TEMPER THE ZEALOUS ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN GROUPS, WHICH CAN AFFECT U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS.

13. FROM THE LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, GLIGA SAID, THE MINORITY PROBLEM IN ROMANIA IS SOLVED. ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND OTHER RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL ROMANIANS THINK ALIKE. SOME MAY HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT NATIONAL POLICY, BUT THEY REPRESENT A SMALL MINORITY. THE PRESS, HOWEVER, IS VERY INTERESTED IN THEM, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE IS DISTORTED AND EXAGGERATED.

14. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE ALLUDED TO "RECENT STUDIES" MEANT TO RE-OPEN THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT NO RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN THE U.S. HAS RAISED THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE. CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED ABOUT SCHOOLING, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND SIMILAR QUESTIONS. NICOLAE SAID THESE ARE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, AND WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MISTAKES CAN BE MADE AND REFERRED TO THE MENTION IN CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH ON MINORITY POLICY OF THE MISTAKEN PAST PRACTICE OF SENDING HUNGARIAN-SPEAKING ROMANIANS TO AREAS WHERE ONLY ROMANIAN IS SPOKEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 074362

15. NIMETZ SAID WE HAVE NO SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF OUR OWN MINORITY PROBLEMS, AND CERTAINLY NOT FOR ROMANIA'S. BUT THE ISSUE IS IN THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND MUST BE ADDRESSED.

16. GLIGA RETURNED TO THE ISSUE OF DEMONSTRATIONS DURING

THE CEAUSESCU VISIT AND SAID HE WANTED TO STRESS GOR CONCERN. ROMANIA UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S. LAW PERMITS SUCH ACTIVITY AND DOES NOT WISH TO INTERFERE. HOWEVER, DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH CEAUSESCU'S ACTIVITY, AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAR THE VISIT. NIMETZ REPLIED WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THERE WILL BE NO INTERFERENCE WITH THE VISIT. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE074362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: I M SILINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780127-0309
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780335/aaaabdtk.tel
Line Count: 231
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b4e1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3233918
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMETZ-GLIGA MEETING, MARCH 17
TAGS: PEPR, CVIS, SHUM, ETRD, EFIN, OVIP, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b4e1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014